

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (Cancelled).

10. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, or a nucleotide sequence which is at least 90% homologous with a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1;

(b) nucleic acid molecules consisting essentially of a nucleotide sequence capable of hybridizing, along its full length, under stringent hybridization conditions, to a nucleotide sequence complementary to the polypeptide coding region of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in (a); and

(c) nucleic acid molecules consisting of a nucleic acid sequence which is degenerate as a result of the genetic code to a nucleotide sequence as defined in (a) or (b).

11. (New) An isolated polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10.

12. (New) The isolated polypeptide according to claim 2 consisting of an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 or an amino acid which is at least 90% homologous with an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 2 .

13. (New) A vector harboring the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10.
14. (New) A replicable expression vector which carries and is capable of mediating the expression of a nucleotide sequence according to claim 10.
15. (New) A cultured host cell harboring a vector according to claim 13.
16. (New) A process for production of a polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 15 under conditions whereby said polypeptide is produced, and recovering said polypeptide.
17. (New) A cultured host cell harboring a vector according to claim 14.
18. (New) A process for production of a polypeptide, comprising culturing a host cell according to claim 17 under conditions whereby said polypeptide is produced, and recovering said polypeptide.
19. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10, selected from the group consisting of a nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1, or a nucleotide sequence which is at least 90% homologous with a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.
20. (New) An isolated nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1, consisting of a nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.
21. (New) A method for identifying an agent capable of modulating a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10, comprising
 - (i) providing a cell comprising the said nucleic acid molecule;

(ii) contacting said cell with a candidate agent; and

(iii) monitoring said cell for an effect that is not present in the absence of said candidate agent.